

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

FRB-03 OPIC-03 OPR-02 /088 W
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P 111432Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4843

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB ET

SUBJECT: 1. TWO OF CELU'S "FOUR HORSEMEN" DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS

2. AALC OFFICE TO CLOSE BY JUNE 30

REF: ADDIS 6634 AND PREVIOUS

1. MESFIN GEBRE MIKAEL, ONE OF ORIGINAL FOUR FOUNDERS OF CELU, NOW WITH ILO, TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 7 THAT THE FOUR "TECHNICAL ADVISORS" LED BY KIFLU AND GIRMATCHEW WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY CELU (SEE REFTELS). HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT KIFLU, "THE BRAINS" OF THE GROUP, WHO HAS FOUR YEARS JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE IN RUSSIA, SECURED FINANCING FROM MOSCOW CHanneled THROUGH HUNGARY AND BULGARIA AS WELL AS FROM "CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION GROUP" IN BRUSSELS TO PAY ORGANIZING EXPENSES.

2. MESFIN, WHO IS WORKING ON TRANSLATION OF RESOLUTIONS, SAID THAT PUBLISHED DOCUMENT IS ACTUALLY SECOND DRAFT. FIRST DRAFT WAS VERY RADICAL AND ANTI-DIRG. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TRANSLATION.

3. GEBRE SELASSIE GEBRE-MARIAM, ANOTHER OF CELU'S FOUR ORIGINAL FOUNDERS AND NOW ADVISER TO MININT, AGREED THAT FIRST DRAFT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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WRITTEN IN STRONG LANGUAGE AND ATTACKED DIRG. IT ALSO DEMANDED

RELEASE OF BEYENE, FISSEHA AND GHIDAY BY NAME. COMMENTING ON ANTI-DIRG TONE, GEBRE SELASSIE STATED THAT MANY OF THOSE ELECTED DO INDEED OPPOSE THE DIRG. HE IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT ELECTION WAS CONTROLLED THROUGH ABOVE-CITED TECHNICAL ADVISERS WHO, HE ASSERTED, ARE IN TURN CONNECTED TO DIRG FACTION LED BY LT. COL. ATNAFU, PMAC SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

4. AALC REP SUMMERS TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 11 THAT HE HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL CELU-AALC SEVERANCE NOTICE GIVING JUNE 30 DEADLINE FOR AALC TO COMPLETE TERMINATION FORMALITIES AND VACATE CELU BUILDING. SUMMERS' CONVERSATIONS WITH SYMPATHETIC UNION LEADERS WHOM HE CONSIDERS RELIABLE INDICATE THAT AALC WILL HAVE NO ROLE TO PLAY IN LABOR MOVEMENT UNDER CURRENT REGIME. SUMMERS ASKED EMBOFF TO INFORM AALC'S PAT O'FARRELL AND JERRY FUNK OF FOREGOING AND TO REQUEST LATTER TO INSTRUCT HIM ON WHETHER TO REMAIN IN ADDIS ABABA (HE DOESN'T THINK HIS WORK PERMIT IN JEOPARDY) OR SIMPLY PACK BAGS AND LEAVE. GIVEN TAX PROBLEMS OF OTHER AALC REPS ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE, HE FORESEES SOME PROBLEMS, HOWEVER. EMBASSY OF OPINION THAT AT PRESENT TIME NOTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY JERRY OR PAT VISITING ADDIS ABABA SINCE AALC CLEARLY DOES NOT FIT INTO CURRENT EPMG/DIRG PLANS FOR CELU. HOWEVER, SUMMERS GIVEN DIVERGENT OPINION BY GEBRE ON THIS POINT.

5. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE PASS FOREGOING INFORMATION TO PAT O'FARRELL AND JERRY FUNK, OF AALC, ATTENDING ILO CONFERENCE.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF FORMER CELU LEADERS, INDICATION CELU ELECTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN RIGGED, NEW CELU RESOLUTION AND PUBLIC MEDIA PRONOUNCEMENTS SEVERING RELATIONS WITH "IMPERIALIST" AFL/CIO-AALC, EPMG REFUSAL TO HONOR AALC/CELU/GOE AGREEMENTS TO OPERATE IN ETHIOPIA AND OTHER CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT US AID TO ETHIOPIAN LABOR NOT WANTED BY EPMG, MISSION RECOMMENDS AID FUNDING TO AALC ETHIOPIA BE TERMINATED.

7. PROTECT ALL SOURCES.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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